

CLAIMS:

1. A growing medium comprising a self-supporting block formed from sphagnum material bound together by a binding material dispersed through the sphagnum material, said binding material being a compatible adhesive, as hereinbefore defined.
2. The growing medium as claimed in claim 1 wherein the binding material is an adhesive in aqueous dispersion.
3. The growing medium as claimed in claim 2 wherein the binding material is ethylene vinyl acetate adhesive.
4. The growing medium as claimed in claim 1 wherein the binding material is selected from the following group:- casein, carotene, botanical gum resins, wax based adhesives, thermoplastics, thermoplastics melt bond powders.
5. The growing medium as claimed in claim 1 further comprising fibrous material dispersed through the sphagnum material.
6. The growing medium as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an exterior coating over all or part of said growing medium.
7. The growing medium as claimed in claim 6 wherein said exterior coating is selected from the group consisting of: fibrous material, thermoplastics melt bond powder, adhesive coated thermoplastic material.
8. The growing medium as claimed in claim 5 or claim 7 wherein said fibrous material is selected from the following group:- shredded waste paper, wool, coconut fibre, shredded cork, shredded bark.
9. A method for preparing a growing medium comprising the steps of:-

- providing sphagnum material;

- mixing with said sphagnum material a binding material comprising a compatible adhesive, as hereinbefore defined;

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- transferring said mixture to a mould;

- setting said binding material so that the binding material binds the sphagnum material to form a solid block;

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- removing the formed block from the mould.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said binding material is an adhesive in aqueous dispersion and is mixed with the sphagnum material to form a slurry.

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11. The method as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 further comprising the step of providing fibrous material which is mixed with said sphagnum material.

12. The method as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of forming a coating around all or part of the exterior surface of said solid block.

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13. The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said exterior coating is selected from the group consisting of: fibrous material, thermoplastics melt bond powder, adhesive coated thermoplastics material.

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14. The combination of a growing medium as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 8 and a support tray, said support tray providing one or more apertures, the or each aperture being adapted to receive the growing medium and being surrounded by solid side walls; the top and base of the or each aperture being open.

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